

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION No. 103
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15.12.2022

Conversion of protected areas into safari parks

*103. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to convert protected areas like Aravalli into safari parks;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is a fact that number of expressways are passing through wildlife corridors and wetlands in Maharashtra and same area will be used for development of infrastructure; and
- (d) if so, the steps Government is taking to safeguard the wildlife and nature?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARAS (a) TO (d) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *103 DUE FOR REPLY ON 15.12.2022 REGRADING “CONVERSION OF PROTECTED AREAS INTO SAFARI PARKS” RAISED BY SHRI SANJAY RAUT

- (a)and (b) As per the PARIVESH portal, no proposal for conversion of Aravali into safari parks has been received in the Ministry.
- (c) Proposals for developmental activities including expressways, within National Parks, Sanctuaries, Tiger Reserves, Tiger Corridors and those activities requiring environmental clearance inside Eco-sensitive Zones (ESZ) around National Parks and Sanctuaries in Maharashtra have been considered and recommended by the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wild Life (SCNBWL). The proposals are forwarded after thorough scrutiny by the State Government and the State Board for Wild Life headed by the respective Chief Ministers. The SCNBWL, which also includes eminent ecologists, conservationists and environmentalists, takes informed decisions on the proposals placed for its consideration.
- (d) The important steps taken by the Government to protect and conserve wildlife and endangered species of flora and fauna include the following:
- i. Ministry has issued guidelines on eco-friendly measures to mitigate impacts of linear infrastructure on wildlife which includes underpasses and overpasses for facilitating animal movement.
 - ii. Financial assistance to States/Union Territories under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of ‘Development of Wildlife Habitats’, ‘Project Tiger’ and ‘Project Elephant’ for development of wildlife and its habitat, for activities like creation and maintenance of water holes for wild animals in Protected Areas, soil and moisture conservation measures, establishment of anti-poaching camps, strengthening wildlife veterinary care, eradication of weeds, creation and maintenance of fire lines, awareness generation.
 - iii. Providing financial assistance to States/UTs for the recovery programme of critically endangered species under the component Recovery programme for saving of critically endangered species and habitats under CSS- ‘Development of Wildlife Habitats’. A total of 22 critically endangered species have been identified under this programme.
 - iv. Rare and endangered species of animals found in India like Snow Leopard, Olive Ridley Turtles, Great Indian Bustard, Gangetic Dolphin, Dugong, etc. have been listed in Schedule-I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, thereby providing them highest degree of protection.
 - v. The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 provides for punishment for violation of its provisions. The Act also provides for forfeiture of any equipment, vehicle or weapon that is used for committing wildlife offence.
 - vi. Law enforcement authorities in the States/UTs maintain strict vigil

- against poaching of wild animals.
- vii. Wild Life Crime Control Bureau has been set up to gather intelligence about poaching and unlawful trade in wild animals and animal articles and to achieve inter-state and trans-boundary coordination in enforcement of wildlife laws.
 - viii. The Ministry has formulated the 3rd 'National Wildlife Action Plan' for a period of 2017 to 2031 to save wild animals in the country. The Plan focuses on landscape approach in conservation of all wildlife irrespective of where they occur. It also gives special emphasis to recovery of threatened species of wildlife while conserving their habitats which includes terrestrial, inland aquatic, coastal and marine ecosystems.
 - ix. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change released the Advisory for management of Human Wildlife Conflict in February 2021, which also provides for improvement of wildlife habitats.
 - x. A National Action Plan for conservation of migratory birds along the Central Asian Flyway has been launched.
 - xi. In order to further strengthen conservation of wildlife, Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs) are notified around National Parks and Sanctuaries under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
